



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bob Mauseth  
Toll Free(866)262-7307

## Patterson Sends Message to Congress

### *Stop the Out-of-State Waste Dumping in Michigan*

**January 22, 2003** – Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, introduced a resolution today that would give Michigan the authority to ban out-of-state solid waste dumping as soon as Congress amends federal law.

“Michigan has been forced to become one of the largest dumping grounds of imported solid waste in the country. This is unacceptable,” Patterson said. “There is considerable concern over protecting our environment.”

Senator Patterson’s resolution is one that will memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to give states the authority to ban out-of-state solid waste.

“Being forced to accept unlimited volumes of garbage from outside our state is a serious long-term problem,” Patterson said. “It would seem that with the long-term effects placed on Michigan, we should have the ability to regulate what comes across state and international borders.”

In 1992, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Fort Gratiot Sanitary Landfill vs. Michigan Department of Natural Resources that only Congress has the authority to regulate interstate commerce. Since the ruling, fifteen percent of all trashed dumped in Michigan landfills originates from outside the state or Canada.

During the last legislative session while serving as a state representative, Patterson sent Congress a forceful resolution. However, the federal government failed to act to allow more local control. Currently, Patterson is the Vice Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committee.

As Senator of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, Patterson represents the City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Trenton, Grosse Isle Township, Gibraltar and Rockwood.